MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Waste Management Administration • Environmental Restoration & Redevelopment Program

MARYLAND SAND GRAVEL AND STONE
Elkton, Maryland
(National Priorities List Site)
MD-033

Site Location

The Maryland Sand, Gravel and Stone (MSGS) site is an inactive sand and gravel quarry that occupies about 150 acres of land west of Elkton, Maryland. The facility is situated south of the intersection of Marley Road and Nottingham Road and on the north side of Route 40.

Site History

This site previously operated under the name Maryland Sand and Gravelstone Company. Between 1969 and 1974, this site was used for the disposal of waste processing water, sludge, still bottoms and about 2,000 drums of solid and semi-solid wastes. During the same period, approximately 700,000 gallons of liquid waste were dumped into pits. In 1974, 200,000 gallons of liquid waste were removed from the site by the owner/operators and disposed at Kin Buc Landfill, Edison, New Jersey.

Environmental Investigations and Actions

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) performed an initial site assessment in 1979. EPA re-evaluated and sampled the site in 1982. The site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in September 1983. The EPA, Region III has divided the MSGS site into three phases or operable units. Operable Unit 1 (OU1) consists of the shallow groundwater contamination and buried drums. Operable Unit 2 (OU2) consists of contamination in the deeper aquifers and a possible waste source in the Western Excavated Area. Operable Unit 3 (OU3) consists of contaminated soils.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) activities for OU1 began in 1984 and were completed in 1985. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds and metals were found on site in ponds, seeps, sediment, subsurface soils, and the shallow groundwater (aquifer). The areas of drum disposal were evaluated. The OU2 RI/FS began in 1985 and was finalized in 1990. On-site VOC contamination was found primarily in the upper sand aquifer, with only trace amounts found in groundwater from the middle sand aquifer. It was also determined that no waste disposal occurred in the Western Excavated Area.

Remedial activities outlined in the September 1985 OU1 Record of Decision (ROD) addressed the removal of buried drums, on-site treatment of shallow groundwater contamination in the Eastern Excavated Area, and restricted access to the site. EPA approved the "100% Design Report for Phase I Groundwater Activities" in May 1995. Construction activities for the Remedial Action for the shallow groundwater contamination began in September 1995. The groundwater treatment system has been fully operational since the spring of 1996. Remedial activities outlined in the OU2 ROD (9/90) included the installation of additional monitoring wells and on-site and off-site groundwater monitoring.

Point of use treatment of off-site wells would be initiated, if required. To date, this has not been implemented.

Field activities for the OU3 Soil Investigation began in 1995 and the Focused Feasibility Study was completed in June 2002. EPA released the OU3 Proposed Plan in July 2002 and finalized the ROD in October 2002. The selected remedy calls for excavation and treatment of principal threat contaminated soils using low-temperature thermal desorption technology. The existing contaminated groundwater treatment system will be expanded and continue to operate at the site. An open area that currently exists between collection trenches #1 and #2 will be eliminated by combining these trenches into one long collection trench. Enhanced biodegradation augmentation will be applied to saturated soils and groundwater where contaminants in groundwater exceed cleanup levels. This process will augment on-site naturally occurring biodegradation processes.

In September 2004, the Administrative Order on Consent/Consent Decree to perform Remedial Design and Remedial Action activities for OU3 was signed by EPA, the Department of Justice and the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). The OU3 Draft Remedial Design Work Plan was received in November 2004.

Current Status

EPA and MDE project managers are reviewing the OU3 Draft Remedial Design Work plan.

The PRPs have agreed to investigate possible off-site migration of contaminants in the groundwater. Off-site groundwater and soils sampling is ongoing.

Planned or Potential Future Action

The OU3 Draft Remedial Design Work Plan is expected to be finalized in spring 2005 and related field activities to commence. The Preliminary Design should be received in early 2006.

Facility Contacts

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Site Repositories

Cecil County Public Library
Elkton Branch
301 Newark Avenue
Elkton, MD 21921